



ARNOLD & PORTER

202.942.5000
202.942.5999 Fax

555 Twelfth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004-1206

May 27, 2003

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MAY 29 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/227,881
Filed: January 11, 1999
Title: *Nucleic Acids, Kits and Methods for the Diagnosis, Prognosis and Treatment of Glaucoma and Related Disorders*
Inventors: Thai D. NGUYEN *et al.*
Atty. Ref. No.: 16491.066

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

1. a Response to the Office Action Dated February 25, 2003; and
2. a return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the United States Patent and Trademark Office stamp the attached postcard with the filing date of these documents and return it to our courier.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. If, however, any fees are due in conjunction with this filing, including any extension of time fees required to prevent abandonment, then such extensions are hereby petitioned, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the present filing to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing docket number 16491.066.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel M. Freed (Reg. No. 25,101)

Joseph W. Ricigliano (Registered Patent Agent, Reg. No. 48,511)

Enclosures



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#32/K.T
5/31

In re application of: Thai D. Nguyen *et al.*

Appln. No.: 09/227,881

Filed: January 11, 1999

For: *Nucleic Acids, Kits and Methods for the
Diagnosis, Prognosis and Treatment of
Glaucoma and Related Disorders*

Group Art Unit: 1635

Examiner: Schmidt, Mary M.

Docket No.: 16491.066

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Response to the Office Action Dated February 25, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 25, 2002, Applicants submit the following comments, amendments, and remarks.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS begin at page 2 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS begin at page 3 of this paper.

REMARKS begin at page 6 of this paper.

Applicants do not believe any fees are due in conjunction with this submission. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. If any fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 are required in the present application, including any fees for extensions of time, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing matter number 16491.066.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 79-81 and 91-126 are pending. Claims 92, 93, 95, 98, 99, 101, 104, 105, 107, 110, 111, 113, 116, 117, 119, 122, 123, and 125 stand withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected subjected matter. Claims 79-81, 91, 94, 96, 97, 100, 102, 103, 106, 108, 109, 112, 114-115, 118, 120-121, 124, and 126 are being examined on their merits to the extent of SEQ ID NO.: 3.

Amendments are supported throughout the disclosure. For example the amendment to claim 118 is supported by at least the portion of the disclosure entitled “Generating Cells, Vectors, and Expressed Proteins Using Agents of the Invention” starting at page 44, line 24. The amendments to claims 79, 97, 109, and 121 are supported for example at page 28, lines 9-16. The amendment to claim 100 is supported at least at page 46, lines 7 - 14. The amendment to claim 112 is supported at least at page 25, lines 19-28. The amendment to claim 124 is supported at least by the disclosure at page 46, lines 15-29.